

HOUSE RESOLUTION 254

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon and Lebanon Little League Baseball on the occasion of Opening Day.

WHEREAS, this legislative body is proud to specially recognize those service and community-minded organizations that reach out to the upcoming generation by supporting their character development and athletic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon is one such noteworthy organization whose members have dedicated their time and talents to the Little League teams of Lebanon for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the genesis of Lebanon Little League Baseball was a group of young boys who played baseball behind McClain School circa 1954; George Dixon and Hanley Hall of the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon eventually cultivated the idea of sponsoring a Little League in Lebanon, and plans for development of a recreation park soon followed; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bill Baird, who was an above average sand-lot shortstop in his younger days, agreed to petition the City to purchase and develop land for a recreational park, and in May of 1955, the ball field was ready for play; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon wanted the Kiwanis Club to sponsor the first Little League Baseball in Lebanon, and his efforts were essential in obtaining a Little League Charter; he served as the first President of the Little League, and Leonard Ballard succeeded him as the League's second President; and

WHEREAS, beginning with four teams sponsored by the Lebanon Bank, Nokes Sports, Lebanon Blankets, and D & D Stores, the Little League grew so quickly that by 1957, two more teams were added, Dicks Food Mart and Optimist Club; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, the continued growth of the League resulted in a split into two leagues, the Kiwanis Little League and the Optimist Little League; George Harding devised a plan for distributing the players based on the months of their birthdays, with one League taking the players whose birthdays were in odd-numbered months and the other taking the players whose birthdays were in even-numbered months; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harding's ingenious idea was only the beginning of his participation in Little League decisions; he went on to serve in all local Little League positions, held District and Regional offices, and served as a State Representative for Little League on the National Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, standing as one of the original coaches in the League, Dr. T.J. Gallaher has meticulously preserved the history of the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon Little League and continues to be an active member of both the League and the Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, not only providing quality recreation and athletics throughout its 50-year history, the Kiwanis Little League has promoted the advancement of the Lebanon community by encouraging the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, steadfastly devoted to Kiwanis International's commitment "to serving the children of the world," the 58 members of today's Kiwanis Club of Lebanon strive to better their community through public service, with children as their first priority; and

WHEREAS, ably led by President Charlie Finley, the 2005-2006 officers of the Lebanon Kiwanis Club are President-Elect Duane McGray, Vice President Teresa Larkins, Secretary Judy Ashe, Treasurer Delayne Davenport, Immediate Past President Marie Farley, and Lieutenant Governor, Second Division of the Kentucky-Tennessee District, Faye Dedman; and

WHEREAS, Little League Opening Day in Lebanon is April 8, 2006, and it is especially fitting on this occasion that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to specially recognize the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon's commitment to Tennessee's next generation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon Little League, salute the members of the Kiwanis Club

of Lebanon for their dedication to the youth of their community and this State, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.